A petition for a three-month extension of time is noted on the attached transmittal, and the extension fee is enclosed.

Kindly amend the application, without prejudice, as follows:

In the Claims:

Please add new claims 106-142, as follows:

106. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for implementing a method for enforcing rights in protected digital content, the method comprising:

receiving digital content distributed from a content server;

receiving and storing at least one digital license issued from a license server, the at least one digital license corresponding to and separate from the digital content;

attempting to render the digital content on a rendering application in a particular manner;

invoking a Digital Rights Management (DRM) system upon such rendering application attempting to render the digital content; and

determining, by the DRM system, whether a right to render the digital content in the manner sought exists based on the at least one stored digital license corresponding to the digital content.

107. The medium of claim 106 wherein the method comprises receiving digital content distributed from the content server over a network.

108. The medium of claim 107 wherein the method comprises receiving digital content distributed from the content server over the Internet.

109. The medium of claim 106 wherein the method comprises receiving and storing at least one digital license issued from the license server over a network.

110. The medium of claim 109 wherein the method comprises receiving and storing at least one digital license issued from the license server over the Internet.

111. The medium of claim 106 wherein the method comprises receiving the digital content in an encrypted form.

112. The medium of claim 111 wherein the method comprises receiving and storing at least one digital license including:

a decryption key that decrypts the encrypted digital content; and

a description of the rights conferred by the license, wherein the encrypted digital content cannot be decrypted and rendered without obtaining such

license from the license server.

113. The medium of claim 112 wherein the method comprises receiving and storing at least one digital license corresponding to the digital content and further including a digital signature that binds the license to the encrypted digital content.

114. The medium of claim 106 wherein the method further comprises directing a user to the license server to obtain a digital license to render such digital content in the manner sought if the DRM system determines that a right to render the digital content in the manner sought does not exist based on the at least one stored digital license corresponding to the digital content.

115. The medium of claim 106 wherein the method further comprises transparently obtaining a digital license from the license server without any action necessary on the part of a computing device user if the DRM system determines that a right to render the digital content in the manner sought does not exist based on the at least one stored digital license corresponding to the digital content.

116. The medium of claim 106 wherein the method comprises receiving and storing at least one digital license bound to the digital content.

117. The medium of claim 116 wherein the method comprises receiving and storing at least one digital license bound to the digital content by way of a public / private key technique.

118. The medium of claim 106 wherein the method comprises receiving and storing at least one digital license only if the license server trusts the DRM system to abide by the license.

119. The medium of claim 106 wherein the method comprises receiving the digital content in an encrypted form, and further comprises performing decryption of the digital content by way of a trusted black box of the DRM system.

120. The medium of claim 119 wherein the method comprises receiving the digital content in an encrypted form, and further comprises performing decryption of the digital content by way of a trusted black box of the DRM system, the black box including a unique public / private key pair for performing the decryption.

121. The medium of claim 120 wherein the method comprises receiving and storing at least one digital license in response to a license request from the DRM system, the license request including the black box public key, at least a portion of the digital license being encrypted according to the black box public key prior to issuance of

such license, thereby binding such license to such black box.

122. The medium of claim 121 wherein the method comprises receiving the digital content in an encrypted form, wherein each digital license corresponding to the digital content includes a decryption key that decrypts the encrypted digital content, and wherein the decryption key is encrypted in the license according to the black box public key.

123. The medium of claim 120 wherein the method comprises receiving and storing at least one digital license further including a description of the rights conferred by the license, wherein the encrypted digital content cannot be decrypted and rendered without obtaining such license from the license server.

124. The medium of claim 119 wherein the method comprises receiving and storing at least one digital license in response to a license request from the DRM system, the license request including a version number of the black box, the license server determining prior to issuance of the license whether the version number of the black box is acceptable.

125. The medium of claim 118 wherein the method comprises receiving and storing at least one digital license including a description of the rights conferred by

the license, the method further comprising evaluating by a trusted license evaluator of the DRM system the rights description and allowing rendering of the digital content by the rendering application only if such rendering is in accordance with the rights description of the license.

126. A method for implementing digital rights management, wherein the method enforces rights in protected digital content, the method comprising:

receiving the distributed digital content at the computing device;

attempting to render the digital content by way of a rendering application;

invoking, by the rendering application, a Digital Rights Management (DRM) system upon such rendering application attempting to render the digital content;

determining, by the DRM system, whether a right to render the digital content in the manner sought exists based on any digital license stored in the computing device and corresponding to the digital content; and

if the right does not exist:

requesting from a license server a digital license that provides such right and that corresponds to and is separate from the digital content;

receiving, by the computing device, the issued digital license corresponding to the digital content from the license server; and

storing the received digital license on the computing device.

127. The method of claim 126 wherein each receiving step comprises receiving over a network.

128. The method of claim 127 wherein each receiving step comprises receiving over the Internet.

129. The method of claim 126 comprising receiving the digital content on a portable medium selected from a group consisting of an optical storage medium and a magnetic storage medium.

130. The method of claim 126 comprising receiving the digital content in an encrypted form.

131. The method of claim 130 comprising receiving the issued digital license including:

a decryption key that decrypts the encrypted digital content; and

a description of the rights conferred by the license, wherein the encrypted digital content cannot be decrypted and rendered without obtaining such license from the license server.

132. The method of claim 131 comprising receiving the issued digital license further including a digital signature that binds the license to the encrypted digital content.

133. The method of claim 126 wherein requesting a digital license comprises directing, by the DRM system, a computing device user to the license server to obtain a digital license to render such digital content in the manner sought.

134. The method of claim 126 wherein requesting a digital license comprises transparently obtaining, by the DRM system, a digital license from the license server without any action necessary on the part of a computing device user.

135. The method of claim 126 comprising receiving a digital license bound to the corresponding digital content by way of a public / private key technique.

136. The method of claim 126 further comprising employing a trusted black box in the DRM system to perform decryption and encryption functions for such DRM system.

137. The method of claim 136 wherein the black box includes a public /

private key pair, and wherein requesting the digital license comprises including in the request the black box public key, wherein the license server encrypts at least a portion of the digital license according to the black box public key prior to issuance of such license, thereby binding such license to such black box.

138. The method of claim 137 comprising receiving the digital content in an encrypted form and receiving the digital license including a decryption key that decrypts the encrypted digital content, the decryption key being encrypted according to the black box public key.

139. The method of claim 138 comprising receiving the digital license including a description of the rights conferred by the license, wherein the encrypted digital content cannot be decrypted and rendered without obtaining such license from the license server, the rights description in the license being encrypted according to the decryption key.

140. The method of claim 136 wherein the black box includes a certifying authority signature as provided by an approved certifying authority, and wherein requesting a digital license comprises including the certifying authority signature, the license server determining prior to issuance of the license whether the certifying authority signature is valid.